

Tentative minutes of the **Bethel Board of Education Regular Meeting** held on **October 2, 2008**, in Board of Education Conference Room E.

Attendance: None

Administrative Attendance: G. Chesley, J. Jordan, P. Cosentino, P. Chapman, C. Richard

L. Craybas, Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

1. **Call to Order**

A. ***Roll Call for Quorum***

Board Members Present: S. Carlsen, L. Craybas, J. DeRosa, M. Duff, M. Knickerbocker, R. Renner

Board Members Absent: K. Harrison, W. Kingston, B. Foulk

BHS Representative: None

B. ***Pledge Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America***

2. **Approval of Minutes**

A.

**Motion by Stuart Carlsen: Move to approve the minutes of September 18, 2008**

**Seconded by: M. Duff**

**AYE: S. Carlsen, L. Craybas, J. DeRosa, M. Duff**

**NAY: None**

**Abstain: M. Knickerbocker and R. Renner**

**Motion Carried**

**Correspondence**

- Dr. Chesley spoke briefly about memos he received from Andrew Morosky, Director of Public Works. Memos were regarding Chapter 393 of CT Law which states that there is no requirement for the Town to employ licensed workers.

**Administrative/Board Member Update**

- Dr. Chesley brought to the Board's attention the CABE Convention being held in Mystic, CT on November 14, 2008. If there is interest, speak to Sue.Pare to register.
- Robin Renner mentioned that she went to a CABE Convention and relayed to the Board that it was very informative.

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**OCT 06 2008**

**TOWN OF BETHEL  
TOWN CLERK**

**Audience Participation**

- Andrew Morosky, Director of Public Works spoke briefly about the memos he sent to Dr. Chesley. He explained that there were certain renovations that “judgment” would dictate to get a licensed contractor, but for smaller jobs, it would not be necessary.
- Dr. Chesley added that good judgment should be used when hiring workers for specific jobs.

**Reports to the Board**

**A. Policy**

**1. First Reading:**

- **Policy/Regulation 5141.3 Health Assessments and Immunizations**  
Dr. Jordan stated that Linda Pica and Betty Avery added new language relating to tuberculin skin testing. State of Connecticut changed what was mandated in May of '05 to include a “risk assessment” if “yes” then and only then do they need a TB Mantoux test.

Robin Renner also mentioned the feared correlation between Autism and immunizations. She asked whether or not we would accept a parent’s choice not to immunize their child because they believed that the correlation existed. Dr. Jordan will bring these concerns to Betty Avery, Health Services Coordinator.

Moved to second reading.

**2. Second Reading:**

- **Policy/Regulation 6153, Field Trips**  
L. Craybas reported that this policy/regulation was discussed by the policy sub-committee. Two points were added: on the return from these trips (1) the principals were provided some feedback and (2) whether or not the trip accomplished its objectives educationally whether it be a day trip or a more extended trip out of the country.

<p><b>Motion by S. Carlsen: Move to adopt Policies/Regulations 6153, Field Trips as amended.</b> <b>Seconded by: M. Duff</b> <b>Motion Carried Unanimously</b></p>
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- *Policy/Regulation 5131.911, Bullying*
- *Policy 5131.913, Cyberbullying*
- *Policy 5131.8, Out of School Behavior*

Discussion on tabling the above policies due to the fact that the state legislature has come forward with criteria under Public Act 08-160 entitled, "An Act Concerning School Learning Environment". There is a deadline of February 2009 which states that policies covered by this public act have to be re-written, revised and submitted to the State Department of Education for review.

Dr. Jordan stated that there are two areas that need to be changed; the suspension and expulsion policies as they relate to bullying. Dr. Jordan further stated that she has met with grade K-5 counselors, social workers and administrators and will be meeting with the middle school and high school Friday and Tuesday respectively. Dr. Jordan was impressed with our bullying curriculum and the consequences that are applied. She was encouraged by their pro-active approach taken.

L. Craybas asked Dr. Jordan to outline some of the new directives that are needed. Dr. Jordan stated that besides the strengthening of the suspension and expulsion policies, there has to be an ongoing committee that reviews the number of bullying incidents. A survey needs to be done in every school. Dr. Jordan mentioned doing professional development related to safe school. It was mentioned that the number one places for the occurrences of bullying is on the bus and in the cafeteria.

It was stated that even though the law goes into effect in February '09, we must obey the law now.

Dr. Jordan explained briefly that the guidance counselors teach kids what to do if they are being bullied and who to go to. The social workers go into the classrooms where there have been incidents of bullying and help kids find alternate of behaviors.

Dr. Cosentino talked briefly about the program funded by the Bethel Education Foundation. There were two training sessions totaling 6 hours presented by the Anti-Defamation League which included 35 staff members and 55 students. The discussion focused on bullying, whether you are a bully or an ally, whether you are a victim or a bystander. There will be a program at the high school on October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. It will include 6 students speaking about how they have been bullied. Dr. Cosentino spoke about "zero tolerance" policy. There is help for those who are being bullied and the bully is dealt with immediately.

Dr. Jordan mention she was proud of the fact that over 30 staff members were getting specially trained so that they can facilitate small groups.

**Motion by L. Craybas: Move to table the second readings Policy/Regulation 5131.911, Bullying; Policy 5131.913, Cyberbullying; Policy 5131.8, Out of School Behavior for a subsequent Board of Education meeting, a date yet to be determined.  
Seconded by M. Knickerbocker  
Motion Carried Unanimously**

***B. Curriculum***

***1. School Wellness Policy Report***

All reports for the surrounding areas were ranked in the newspaper. There were suggestions made in terms of our language. Suggested language should regulate all food sold and served to students separately from school meals should meet Connecticut nutrition standards. Dr. Jordan stated we will redo the report and comply with what the State is asking.

***2. Music Festival Cruise Field Trip Request***

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to approve the Music Festival Cruise.  
Seconded by: R. Renner  
Motion Carried Unanimously**

***3. BHS Costa Rica Field Trip Request***

**Motion by Jill DeRosa: Move to approve the BHS Costa Rica Field Trip.  
Seconded by S. Carlsen:  
Motion Failed**

***4. BHS London Theatre Field Trip Request***

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to table the BHS London Theatre Field Trip until the October 16, 2008 Board meeting.  
Seconded by S. Carlsen:  
Motion Carried Unanimously**

**9. Adjourn**

**Motion by M. Knickerbocker: Move to adjourn at 8:17 p.m.  
Seconded by S. Carlsen  
Motion Carried Unanimously**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Karen Alongi  
Board Recorder